REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 13-23, 27 and 28 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 13-15, 27 and 28 are amended and Claims 10 and 24 are cancelled by the present amendment. Support for amendments of Claims 1, 13-15, 27 and 28 can be found, for example, in the originally filed specification at page 15, line 20 to page 16, line 5 and page 3, line 17 to page 4, line 11. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 10 was objected to as being an improper dependent claim; Claims 1-10, 13-24 and 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 1-10, 13-24 and 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Muto (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0116480) in view of Okada (U.S. Pat. No. 6,088,125) in further view of Parry (U.S. Pat. No. 6,666,594) in further view of York (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0120775).

With respect to the objection to Claim 10 as an improper dependent claim, claim 10 has been cancelled. Accordingly, applicants submit that the objection to Claim 10 is moot.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-10, 13-24 and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite, Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the rejection. Specifically, Claims 1, 13 14, 15, 27 and 28 have been amended to provided sufficient antecedent basis for the limitations recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims under §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-10, 13-24 and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by Muto, Okada, Parry and York the rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 describes an image reproducing apparatus. In a non-limiting example Figure 2 illustrates the invention as described in Claim 1. The image reproducing apparatus is

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designed to form and reproduce and images. If there is a problem with the reproduction or forming of images an acquiring unit 13 acquires the problem information. The problem is then sent to the addressee determination unit 14 which accesses the problem database 20 and identifies the problem code of the problem information and finds the addressee who is associated with that problem code based on the severity of the problem and the proximity of the addressee to the image reproducing apparatus. The addressee determination unit 14 then sends the information to the e-mail creating means which creates an e-mail using the above information. Finally, the communication unit sends the e-mail.

Claim 1 recites, in part,

> an image forming part that carries out an image forming and reproducing process;
> a data storage that stores a plurality of possible problems occurring in connection with the image forming and reproducing process, each problem being stored in association with a problem ID code and addressee information selected based on the severity of the problem and the proximity of the addressee to the image reproducing apparatus;
> an acquiring unit that acquires problem information when one of the problems occurs in connection with the image forming and reproducing process;
> an addressee determination unit that selects an addressee corresponding to said one of the problems with reference to the data storage;
> a communication unit that reports occurrence of said one of the problems to the selected addressee;
> a web page creating means that creates a Web page containing detailed information about the problems detected in an image reporting and reproducing process; and
> an e-mail creating means that creates an e-mail to report the occurrence of said one of the problems to the selected addressee and inserts the problem ID code and a URL of the Web page in a subject field of the e-mail.

Independent Claims 13, 14, 15, 27 and 28 recite similar features.

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Muto describes a system in which transmission data is generated on a status change of a device. Further, Muto describes a mail header/footer unit that stores destination information[1] and status codes corresponding to a status message data unit.[2]

Okada describes sending a result of a process from a printing machine to a destination node stored in a table.[3]

However, neither Muto nor Okada describe that each problem is stored in association with a problem ID code and addressee information which is selected based on the severity of the problem and the proximity of the addressee to the image reproducing apparatus.

In other words, the combination of Muto and Okada describes sending an email to an administrator in response to a printer event but does not describe that the addressee of the email is selected based on the severity of the problem and the proximity of the addressee to the image reproducing apparatus.

Further, the Parry and York references do not cure the above noted deficiencies of Muto and Okada as they do not describe addressee information which is selected based on the severity of the problem and the proximity of the addressee to the image reproducing apparatus.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and similarly Claims 13, 14, 15, 27 and 28 and claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Muto, Okada, Parry and York considered individually or in any proper combination.
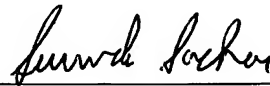
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[1] Muto, paragraph 0045.
[2] Muto, paragraph 0055.
[3] Okada, Fig. 19.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment,

the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable

action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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